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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

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SUBJECT

Strausberg Airfield

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. On 12 November 1953, billeting equipment from Strausberg airfield was being loaded on 16 gondola cars at Strausberg railroad station. Most of the trucks engaged in the operation had covered numbers.

Subsequently,

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5 trucks with canvas-covered searchlights, about 1.8 meters in diameter, 2 trucks with van-like superstructures, 6 one-axle trailers, and 7 two-axle trailers with low superstructures and about 5 meters long were being entrained. At 2:15 p.m. on 14 November, a train of 20 boxcars carrying air force troops left Strausberg-Stadt railroad station. On 16 November, additional billeting equipment from Strausberg airfield was being entrained at the railroad station

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being engaged. Between 26 November and 7 December, a KVP sentry was posted at the airfield. 1

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2. During the first half of November, Strausberg airfield was entirely vacated by the Soviet units previously stationed there. All the interior equipment and wiring had been taken along. On 13 December, the Bauunion Spree was officially charged with reconditioning work at the field for occupation by the KVP. The required construction machines were dispatched from Farchim airfield to Strausberg. Construction work was scheduled to start at the beginning of January 1954 at the latest.
3. Between 22 December 1953 and 2 January 1954, the following material was shipped to Strausberg airfield: 26 railroad cars with 4 narrow-gauge Diesel locomotives, rails, ties, narrow-gauge lorries, and sections of low wooden buildings from Farchim; 16 railroad cars with construction material from Schlepzig. The construction materials were unloaded at the field and, subsequently, work was started on the laying of rails to the field. Laborers also began working on the destroyed headquarters building and hangars, apparently debris had to be cleared at first.

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4. On 15 December, [] a special commission of the State Secretariate for Motor Vehicle Traffic was charged with the preliminary work for the construction of an airfield near Strausberg and a youth culture house, besides previous projects near Leuna and Buna.

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5. On 6 January, a construction engineer of the Bauunion Spree conferred at the State Secretariate for Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic about the transfer of dredgers and Diesel locomotives to Strausberg. The engineer stated that work had already started on the enlargement of Strausberg airfield and the extension by 9 km of the elevated railroad via Strausberg close to the airfield. 2

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1. [] Comment. These observations confirm previous information on the transfer of the technical school of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army from Strausberg to Doeberitz. []

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2. [] Comment. This is the first report that large-scale construction work had started at Strausberg airfield. Various indications show that the airfield is not to be improved for future occupation by an air unit but that a quartering area of the KVP, probably a higher headquarters, is to be established. This also explains the appearance of a special representative of the Bauunion Spree.

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